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NEWS.

THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT has received from Dr. W. Seward Webb, one of its trustees, the sum of \$6000 for the purchase of the herbarium of C. G. Pringle.

IN CONNECTION with the Royal Botanical Gardens at Peradeniya an experiment station has recently been established for trying on a large scale new products not yet staples. The purchased estate contains 550 acres.

AT A RECENT MEETING of Congress the serial publication known as "Contributions to the U. S. National Herbarium" was transferred from the Department of Agriculture to the National Museum, with a special appropriation of \$7000. This provides for an editorial assistant and an artist, and will enable the Museum to republish certain numbers which are out of print and in demand.

AT THE PITTSBURG meeting of the Botanical Club of the A. A. A. S., the Committee on Nomenclature made the following report through its chairman, Dr. N. L. Britton: "The committee reports that it has held meetings December 29, 1900, and June 30, 1902, and that through a sub-committee has drawn up the basis for a codification of the rules of nomenclature, including the determination of generic types, as previously authorized. The committee recommends that it be given authority to ask the cooperation of other botanists and zoologists in the further consideration of the subjects referred to it, and through their aid to prepare a list of as many types of North American genera as may be possible for presentation, with its report, at a future meeting."

AT THE PITTSBURG meeting of the Botanical Club of the A. A. A. S., C. L. Shear presided, and F. L. Stevens was appointed secretary-treasurer: The following program was presented: H. L. BOLLEY, An anthracnose of flax attacking the embryo within the seed coats; N. L. BRITTON, Carpillary structure of *Sedum pulchellum*, An undescribed species of *Hydrophyllum*; MEL. T. COOK, Notes on material for class demonstration; O. F. COOK, The sterility of coffee varieties, Facts from the history of the cocoa-palm; ARTHUR HOLICK, A bud from a buried cypress swamp; A. D. HOPKINS, A blank for phenological notes; F. E. LLOYD, Mutual variation in opposite leaves, Vivipary in *Podocarpus*, A cheap and convenient laboratory aquarium, Museum methods: demonstration of life histories; C. L. POLLARD, The Gray polypod in Washington, D. C.; H. von SCHRENCK, On the germination

of *Arceuthobium pusillum*; A. D. SELBY, A destructive disease of ginseng under cultivation caused by *Alternaria* sp., A disease of forced cucumbers apparently allied to the mosaic disease of tobacco, tomato, etc.; J. A. SHAFER, *Marshallia trinervata* (Walt) Porter in Pennsylvania, An interesting *Heuchera*; C. L. SHEAR, Notes on *Sclerodema pteridis*, n. sp.; F. L. STEVENS, Notes on *Scelerospora*, Notes on *Symplocos* and *Salvia*, A new character in *Hexastylis*; C. F. STEWART and H. J. EUSTACE, Frost blister of apple and quince leaves. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: F. E. LLOYD, president; A. F. WOODS, vice-president; W. R. MAXON, secretary-treasurer.

THE RECENT SESSIONS of the Botanical Society of America in Pittsburg marked an important epoch in the history of that organization, and may be taken to be of great importance to the botanical interests of the entire country. Although in existence but eight years as an organization, the funds in the hands of the treasurer now amount to over \$2,700. By the adoption of a resolution at the Denver meeting in 1901 the society committed itself to the policy of expending \$500 per year in grants in aid of investigations as soon as the state of its finances would permit. The income and funds of the society have shown a gratifying and unexpected increase, and this feature of the policy of the society is to be put in force at once, as indicated by the resolutions given below. It is notable that the grants to be made by the society form an example of perhaps the only series of scientific grants ever offered in America by means of funds contributed by actual workers in the branch of science benefited. The first grants may be made at the coming meeting in Washington, as indicated by the resolutions:

Resolved, That applications in aid of investigations may be made at any time by members or associates in good standing. Such applications should be made to the secretary, accompanied by a detailed statement in regard to the work for which the grant is requested, and shall be referred by the secretary to the council. The council shall report upon all applications at the next meeting subsequent to the date at which they are received. The amount of any grant confirmed by the society may be drawn by the applicant from the treasurer within six months after the meeting at which the grant was made, after a proper receipt has been made therefor.

The recipient of a grant must make a report of the progress or of the completed results of the investigations for which the grant was given at the next annual meeting, and at every succeeding meeting until the work in question is finished. Such report must be made in writing to the council, and may or may not be referred to the society. Any and every paper dealing with the results of investigations carried out by the aid of grants as above shall bear the imprint, "Investigations prosecuted with the aid of a grant from the Botanical Society of America."

Resolved, That at the next meeting of the society a grant or grants in aid of investigation may be made in any amount not to exceed the total sum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) to members and associates of the society.—D. T. MACDOUGAL, Secretary of Botanical Society of America.

THE FOLLOWING PAPERS were read before section G of the A. A. A. S. at the recent Pittsburg meeting : JOHN M. BATES, The finding of *Puccinia phragmitis* (Schum.) Korn. in Nebraska; CHARLES E. BESSEY, An instance of a change in the native flora, Note on the fuel value of cottonwood; CHARLES J. CHAMBERLAIN, The origin of the achromatic figure in Pellia; MEL T. COOK, Comparison of the development of the embryo sac and embryo of *Claytonia Virginica* and *Agrostemma Githago*; JOHN M. COULTER, Special haustorial apparatus in connection with the embryo sac of angiosperms; EDWIN B. COPELAND, The ascent of the transpiration stream, Chemical stimulation and the evolution of carbon dioxid; J. W. T. DUVEL, Conditions influencing the vitality and germination of seeds; H. A. HARDING and F. C. STEWART, A bacterial soft rot of certain cruciferous plants and *Amorphophallus simense*, a preliminary report; GEORGE G. HEDGCOCK, The prevalence of Alternaria in Nebraska and Colorado during the drought of 1901; A. S. HITCHCOCK, Notes on Agrostis; MARSHALL A. HOWE, A note on the vitality of the spores of Marsilea; HENRY KRAEMER, The pith cells of *Phytolacca decandra*; D. T. MACDOUGAL, Soil temperatures and vegetation; J. B. S. NORTON, *Sclerotinia fructigena*; GEORGE J. PEIRCE, Some neglected factors in discussions of heredity; CHARLES L. POLLARD, Features of the flora of Cuba; FRANK W. RANE, Effect of acetylene gas-light on plant growth, plant environment, and plant diseases; HERMANN VON SCHRENK, Notes on diseases of western Coniferae; AUGUST D. SELBY, A disease of potato stems in Ohio due to Rhizoctonia; C. L. SHEAR, *Arachniotus trachyspermus*, a new species of the Gymnoascaceae; F. L. STEVENS, Studies in Phycomycete fertilization, *Sclerospora graminicola* (Sacc.); F. L. STEWART, The absorption of water; a function of the ligule and stipulaceous tissue of the grasses; E. MEAD WILCOX, A review and criticism of the botanical curriculum of some of our colleges and universities, from the student's standpoint. The officers elected for the ensuing year are: F. V. COVILLE, *vice-president*; C. J. CHAMBERLAIN, *secretary*.

THE FOLLOWING PAPERS were read before the Botanical Society of America at the recent Pittsburg meeting : MRS. E. G. BRITTON, Studies on reproduction by gemmae of the prothallus of ferns, The genus *Sematophyllum* (*Raphidostegium*), The North American species of *Trichomanes*; N. L. BRITTON, Studies in Cyperus and other Cyperaceae; W. A. CANNON, Maturation divisions in the pollen cells of hybrid cottons (by invitation); J. M. COULTER, The relations of the botanical associations of the country, Parthenogenesis in seed plants; H. C. COWLES, Suggestions for ecological cartography, A comparative study of the sand dunes of the ocean and lake shore (illustrated); B. D. HALSTED (address of past president), Two centuries of American botany; A. S. HITCHCOCK, North American species of *Leptochloa*; ARTHUR HOLICK, Fossil ferns from the Laramie group of Florence, Colorado,

Recent investigations in the Pleistocene flora of Maryland (carried out under the auspices of the Maryland Geological Survey, and presented by permission of the state geologist), illustrated; J. E. KIRKWOOD, The embryology of the Cucurbitaceae (by invitation); Miss E. M. KUPFER, Anatomy and physiology of *Baccharis genistelloides*; D. T. MACDOUGAL, The relations of light and darkness to growth and development; W. B. McCALLUM, The stimulus to heterophyly in *Proserpinaca palustris* (by invitation); W. A. MURRILL, The genus *Ganoderma* in North America (by invitation); Miss R. J. RENNERT, Dimorphic structure of the phyllodes of *Oxypolis filiformis* (by invitation); P. A. RYDBERG, A study of *Astragalus*; H. von SCHRENK, A disease of *Catalpa speciosa*; F. L. STEVENS, Mitosis of the primary nucleus of *Synchytrium decipiens* (by invitation); J. J. THORNBERRY, A green organism found in water tanks and reservoirs in Arizona (by invitation); JOHN TORREY, The cytology of the secreting epithelium of *Zea Mais* (by invitation); R. H. TRUE, Tea fermentation; L. M. UNDERWOOD, The genus *Gymnogramma*, and its treatment by English botanists; Miss V. S. WHITE, The Geasters of the United States (by invitation); A. F. Woods, Some disorganization products of plant cells; CHARLES ZELEMY, The dimensional relations of compound leaves (by invitation). The officers elected for the ensuing year are B. T. GALLOWAY, *president*; F. V. COVILLE, *vice-president*; ARTHUR HOLICK, *treasurer*; D. T. MACDOUGAL, *secretary*; WILLIAM TRELEASE and L. M. UNDERWOOD, *councilors*.